



The Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan: *Revolution in the Peaceful Valley*

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“Soldiers and Countrymen:

We have met this evening perhaps for the last time. We have shared the toil of march, the peril of flight, and the dismay of the retreat; alike we have endured the cold and hunger, the contumely (sic) of the internal foe and the courage of foreign oppression. We have sat, night after night, beside the campfire; we have together heard the roll of the reveille which called us to duty, or the beat of the tattoo which gave the signal for the hardy sleep of the soldier with the earth for his bed and knapsack for his pillow.

And now, soldiers and brethren, we have met in *the peaceful valley* on the eve of battle while the sunlight is dying away behind yonder heights, the sunlight that, tomorrow morn, will glimmer on scenes of blood. We have met amid the whitening tents of our encampment, in time of terror and gloom, have gathered together, God grant it may not be the last time.”

From a sermon reportedly preached by Rev. Joab Trout to the American troops on September 10, 1777 the night before the Battle of Brandywine.¹

¹ Sidney Barclay, ed., *Personal Recollections of the American Revolution* (New York: Rudd & Carlton, 1859), 208-209.

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